abrade the seal, thus shortening the life of the seal,

Teske, as depicted in FIG. 1, discloses a shaft 13 extending through a bore 12 provided in a machine component, which apparently may be a housing containing lubricant. A **seal 15** is interposed between the shaft 12 and the wall of the bore and includes a **magnetic sealing ring 16** which is in direct engagement with a shoulder 19 of the rotating shaft 12 and thus **serves a sealing function**. If it is assumed that Teske would have made it obvious to have substituted the seal 15 for applicant's claimed sea, then the problem still exists that some of the contaminants attracted to the seal will be acted on by the rotating shaft and cause the seal to be abraded, thus resulting in a decrease in the life of the seal. **In contrast**, in applicant's claimed device, the ferric contaminants produced by meshing gears are **intercepted before they reach the seal**. The magnetic characteristic of the seal 15 of Teske may, in fact, accelerate the wear since it draws the ferric contaminants to the seal.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,

Jimmie R. Oaks
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Jimmie R. Oaks
Reg. No. 24,987
Patent Department
Deere & Company
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL 61265
Telephone No. (309) 765-4392

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on 17 October 2003
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